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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Hunter.—I have heard that before the coming of the English colonists to Georgia the Indians killed numbers of the buffalo in this vicinity. Is there any authority for such statement?

In the authentic accounts of interviews with the Indians they made frequent allusions to the buffalo. Among them is the well-known *Curious Account of the Indians by an Honorable Person*, by General Oglethorpe, giving Tomochichi's "first set speech" to him, when he presented a buffalo's skin, painted on the inside with the head and feathers of an eagle, declaring that "the eagle signified speed, and the buffalo strength * * * the buffalo skin was warm, and signified protection." We could give many other facts tending to prove that the animal mentioned was well known to the Indians in this neighborhood; but the most positive one, and one that is unquestionable, is this statement in a letter of Oglethorpe to the Trustees, dated at Frederica, 16th March, 1736:

"Tomochichi and I, at his desire, go out tomorrow to hunt ye buffaloe as far as the utmost extent of his dominions, towards Augustine."

P. L.—Is there any reference in writings on the early history of places on our sea-coast to that pest so annoying to us in close touch with salt-water streams, about this time—the sand-fly?

We have in mind no account of any writer on affairs in the salt-water section of Georgia mentioning that insect, except a few words in the journal of the Reverend John Wesley. On Sunday, April 4, 1736, after mentioning that he had set out from Savannah for Frederica, some time after the date of the previous entry, he added that "The next evening we anchored near Skidaway Island * * * I wrapped myself up from head to foot in a large cloak, to keep off the sand-flies."

We add to this the following :

The London Magazine for the year 1745-6, published a sketch by a young gentleman, with the title "Itinerant Observations in America." The article has been republished in the 4th volume of the Collections of the Georgia Historical Society. The author, describing a voyage from St. Simon's Island to Darien, in a six-oared boat, commented on the sand-fly, and the mosquito, and of the first he wrote :

"The sand-fly is so minute an insect as scarce to be perceivable with the naked eye, only appearing like the sporting particles of dust that float in the sun-shine. It even intrudes itself into the mouth as you breathe, and insinuates into all the small apertures of your garments, nor can you in any way fend yourself entirely from them."

T. S. B.—What is the true story concerning the visit of Sir Walter Raleigh to the coast region of Georgia?

Considering the fact that it is very doubtful whether Sir Walter Raleigh ever was in America, the matter suggested by our correspondent is of much interest, and we cheerfully give up a large portion of the space devoted to this department to a recital of all the information to be found on the subject.

Benjamin Martyn, Secretary to the Georgia Trustees, wrote, in 1741, "An Account Showing the Progress of the Colony of Georgia in America," and appended to it an extract from a letter in the *South Carolina Gazette*, dated at Charleston, March 22nd, 1733, part of which is as follows :

"Mr. Oglethorpe has with him Sir Walter Raleigh's written journal, and by the latitude of the place, the marks and traditions of the Indians, it is the very place where he first went on shore, and talked with the Indians, and was the first Englishman they ever saw ; and about half a mile from Savannah is a high mount of earth, under which lies their chief king ; and the Indians informed Mr. Oglethorpe that their king desired before he died that he might be buried on the spot where he talked with that great, good man."

Mr. John Gerar William De Brahm, Surveyor-General of the Southern District of North America, in his *History of the Province of Georgia*, told the same story, but with additions which make the tale more credible; and this is his account:

"Between the city (Savannah) and the Trustees' Garden is an artificial hill upon the bay, part of which, in 1760, was dug through (to open a communication with this suburb and the city), whereby a stratum was opened near the plane of the city, filled with human bones. This confirmed the history of this mount, which had traduced it to be an ancient burying ground, on which (as Tomochichi, the last Yamacraw king related to General Oglethorpe at his arrival) one of the Yamacraw kings had entertained a great white man, with a red beard, who had entered the port of Savannah stream with a very large vessel, and himself came up in his barge to Yamacraw, and had expressed great affection to the Indians, from which he hath had the return of as much. The white man, with his red beard, intending to present the king with a piece of curiosity (he had on board of his vessel), for which he desired some Indians might go down to receive it from his Lieutenant on board, to whom he wrote a note, which he signified the Indians would deliver to this officer, who (pursuant to the order in the note) delivered what was demanded, and the Indians brought it up to Yamacraw, at which their king was greatly surprised, but more so that this white man could send his thoughts to so great a distance upon a white leaf, which, surpassing their conception, they were ready to believe this white to be more than a man, as the Indians have no other way to express times passed or to come than by rising and setting of the sun, by new moons, by sprouting of the trees and the number of their ancestors. The General, by the nearest computation, and comparing history with chronology, concluded the person to have been Admiral Sir Walter Raleigh, who probably entered the Savannah port in 1584, when on his navigation upon this coast."